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AUTOGRAPHS.

On the Fourth of May last there began at Leipsic, Saxony, an Auction Sale of the Collection of Autographs formed by the late J. G. Flügel, United States Consul at that place. According to Appleton's Cyclopædia, Mr. Flügel died there, June 24, 1855, being sixty-seven years of age. He was in the United States from 1810 to 1819, became Professor of the English Language in the University of Leipsic in 1824, and filled that chair till 1838, when he was appointed Consul.

He ranked as one of the foremost Autograph-Collectors in Germany, and the Sale-Catalogue, which comprised 2898 Lots, included a very considerable proportion of American letters and documents. These Mr. Flügel probably obtained by gift from his friends and official acquaintances in this country. We sent orders for some of them, through Messrs. B. Westermann & Co., Booksellers, 440 Broadway, and obtained two-thirds of those which we marked down, at low prices and in perfect condition.

Public Sales of Autographs take place in the city of New York far more frequently than those of Coins, and attract as much, if not more, attention. We have not given to them, or to that branch of collecting, a due degree of notice, although we follow, as most numismatists do, the autographic chase as well as the other. While the "Signers", and rare and interesting writings generally, command very high prices, there are nevertheless more bargains made and to be made by purchasers of autographic papers than by those of coins. Hardly, for instance, had we begun to collect the former, when we obtained for ten cents, a four page 4to letter of John Page, afterwards Governor of Virginia, to his wife, dated Feb. 9, 1794, from the "Indian Queen", Philadelphia, expressed in the most unreserved and familiar tone, and giving the following account of his visit, as member of Congress, to General and Mrs. Washington:

"Yesterday I waited on the President in my great Coat, as an Invalid, as I did not chuse to put on my White thin Coats & thereby too I meant to apologize to Mrs. Washington for not being at her drawing Room the Evening before. I was, received very graciously, & I with my usual Freedom with that great Man whom I always loved chatted familiarly as long as I thought it prudent to stay & then asked if I could have the Pleasure of seeing Mrs. Washington as I had not been well enough to wait upon her the last Evening—he instantly replied to be sure Sir & introduced her in a Minute. They are both well & inquired very particularly after you, your Sister & all our Friends".

Somewhat at variance this with the assertion of a writer in a recent "Round Table":

"Washington was a 'full-blooded aristocrat', as the phrase now is, and when President received Congress standing in his great reception-room, full-dressed and powdered—the impersonation of authority".*

One reason why a numismatist should be a collector of Autographs also, is that so many of these original papers are found to embody facts not elsewhere attainable in relation to coins and medals. We have, moreover, in the way of an additional connecting link, formed the design of bringing together a complete series of interesting letters by the successive Directors of the Mint. Their fac-simile signatures, from Rittenhouse to Snowden, with biographical sketches, are given in the latter's valuable work on the Washington and National Medals. There can be no great difficulty in procuring good specimens of all except the first Director, David Rittenhouse. We have as yet no A. L. S., by him; merely a

* "Round Table", No. 180, p. 9.

D. S. We attach considerable value, however, to even the slightest souvenir of the name. If ever the annals of New York pedagogy shall be fairly written, the once famous school of Madam Rittenhouse, kept in a modest frame building, still standing on the corner of Jay street and Washington, will not be forgotten. We have called her "Madam", since the juvenile pronunciation of our day left it quite uncertain whether she were Mrs. or Miss, that is, whether she were the great philosopher's daughter or his daughter-in-law. In after years we heard obscure hints that this venerable dame's migration from Philadelphia to New York was not perfectly a matter of choice with her. No details, however, came to our knowledge, and we class the report with the "scandal about Queen Elizabeth", whom our strong-willed instructress much resembled in aspect, and in the "cruel and unusual punishments" which she arbitrarily inflicted in violation of the constitution. Peace to her ashes! she taught thoroughly what little she knew, and forty years ago her school was patronized by the leading people of New York, whose children still occasionally interchange anecdotes of her executive ability.

We have the fortune to possess three excellent letters of De Saussure, the second Director, all of which we think interesting enough to print at length. From the style of these productions, as well as from other indications, including the traditions of the Mint, we infer him to have been a genial and high-toned gentleman, talented, educated, and patriotic, and endowed with that natural genius for public affairs which once characterized the Southerner. Under his directorship was coined the first gold ever issued by our government. He presented to General Washington, by whom he had been appointed to that office, the first Eagle struck at the Mint. He kept the second one himself, and it is now preserved by his descendants.

MY DEAR SIR.

CHARLESTON July 19th, 1798.

I wrote you lately very fully announcing to the deep affliction I have sustained in the loss of my excellent father. You who knew his merits, and the unshaken affection w^h subsisted between him & his Children, & whose heart is susceptible of the better feelings of human nature, know how to estimate my loss. It has been the severest loss I have ever suffered, and my heart will long feel a void w^h nothing can fill up. Blessed be his memory. The honor in w^h it is held by his friends & Countrymen is a Consolation to my mind. He was truly American, & entered warmly into the measures for the defence of our Country ag^t the encroachments of our Inveterate enemy the French—I knew him better than any other man—the excellence of his heart, the soundness of his Judgment, the public spirit of his mind. and I do not fear the Imputation of partiality when I pronounce his loss to be a public one as well as a severe private one—

We are preparing our measures of defence here as rapidly as possible—our great work at Schutes' folly (w^h we encline to Call Fort Pinckney) progresses rapidly—our Gallies are going on with great promptitude—our militia are training & the national spirit is rising. The Governor Called as many of the members of the Legislature together as he could Convene in town, to advise with them on measures of defensive preparation, and we this day, advised a number of measures, w^h he adopts, & we Indemnify the Treasurer for advancing the money. We repair Fort Mechanic—mount all the guns we possess—purchase powder, Ball, flints, tents, Camp Kettles, & evry apparatus for war. I do not like his politics, But I think he is in earnest to do evry thing for the service of the Country at this Crisis.—We understand that you propose to raise the Provisional army immediately, & that the General officers are named. The list furnished us gives great satisfaction. I hope we shall have 2000 Infantry stationed on our Sea Coast very early.

I send you a Copy of the oration I had prepared for the 4th July, But w^h the Calamitous event in my family prevented my delivering. It was not polished as much as I Intended, But my mind was very much distressed some weeks before the day, & I did not give it its last dress—All my family unite in sincere regards to M^rs Read & yourself.

I am D. Sr, with great Esteem & true regard, yr obt.

HENRY W DESSAUSURE.

CHARLESTON, JAN^y : 21st : 1800.

DEAR SIR.

We have been giving vent to the Sorrows which overwhelm us in Common with our fellow Citizens, all over the Continent, on the death of our most virtuous & excellent Commander in Chief—The Breast of evry American has swelled almost to bursting, at the sad recollection of what we have possessed, & what we have lost. Ev'ry public demonstration of Grief has been given which our means would permit, or our feelings suggest. The pageantry will be announced to the world, thro' the medium of the public papers. But no representation can do Justice to the profound Sensations of veneration, gratitude sorrow & regret, w^h pervade the Community—It is universal—The Jacobins even, either Join in the general regret—or affect to do so—to avoid the execrations which would pursue them, if they did not go with the public Sentiment on this occasion. I pray to God to protect our Country thus deprived of its chief mortal protector and upholder—the measures taken by Congress have been admired for their dignity & propriety.

Whilst our hearts were yet bleeding over this deep wound, we have had rude alarms from another Source, which have kept us in painful suspense—our Governor has been Severely ill, and remains in a state perhaps worse than death—a palsy which has deadened an arm, a side & a leg, overwhelms his frame, & distracts his friends with grief. You know how amiable he is & how beloved. Judge then of the deep regret excited by the melancholy spectacle of such worth & utility so prostrated. What of hope remains is hardly worth cherishing, for the most ardent friendship & anxiety cannot extend to a tolerable recovery. to these subjects of regret, are to be added the unhappy state of affairs at home & abroad—the doubtful war waged by the powers engaged, seems as distant from a termination as it was some years past, and whilst the difficulty of preserving a neutral position is augmented by the sharpness of the Contest, and suggests to wise

politicians the necessity of arming and preparing to meet & sustain a struggle for our Independence even, It is deeply to be lamented that the Citizens and Government of so powerful a State as Virginia should be creating obstacles to the measures of the National Government. Her temper and her measures are truly alarming. If I lived Eastward of the Delaware or even of the Susquehanna I should not be seriously alarmed—But as all my little fortunes are at stake south of Virginia, I Confess I dread her politics, & I fear her preponderance in the Southern States—What is the real clue to her conduct? what are the objects, & where is the business to end!—

Our Cotton crop is abundant & our rice crop good. the former has been up to 3 f., fell to 18 pence, & has risen again to 2 f. Rice at 16 f. 4s. Nothing could be more prosperous than this Country if our people were United & the Government firm—As doubts of the wisdom and virtue of the State Governments exist, people turn their views to the general government, & the funds & banks of the United States. Your election of Bank directors comes on soon. Permit me to remind you of my friend Crafts—Be assured that he is one of the ablest and fittest men in this City to be in the direction. I rely on your friendship for me to support him—

our Legislature have entirely new modelled the Judiciary—The papers will give you the laws—they are most wretchedly penned; & the regulations are so lame, that the Court, now fitting cannot have a legal Jury.

Mrs. D. unites in respects to Mrs. Read—Believe me to be D. Sir, with great esteem & regard,

Your friend & ob. S.

HENRY WM. DE SAUSSURE.

MY DEAR SIR,

COLUMBIA. S. C. 26 July 1828.

I left home in April on public duty, & have been absent 14 weeks, with the exception of one week spent here in my transition from the Sea Coast to the upper Country; whence I have just returned. I mention this to you, as the reason of my not writing to you earlier. Allow me to thank you for your kind attention & intentions, in favor of my friend Dr. Davis. He is our magnus apollo in his profession, & is besides a most estimable man, to whom we are all greatly attached. It is one of the Phenomina of the human mind & of human Society, that families generally become attached to their domestic physicians, tho' their services are frequently equivocal, & almost always painful: Yet the physicians generally live in discord among themselves. Whilst families seldom love their lawyers, who whilst meddling with the strifes of others, generally agree well among themselves.

This is so generally true that there must be at the root, some strong principle of our nature involved in it. What is it? Dr. Davis, was greatly delighted with his northern tour, & with the vast improvements every where made in a few years, comparatively. Indeed such is the mighty change in our Country, since the British troops gave up the contest, & evacuated the Continent, that their officers, if living, & able to revisit it, would not recognize the Country they had ravaged. But I am wandering from the purpose of my letter. On my late Circuit, I was near the gold country of our State: & procured from one of the gentlemen concerned in working them, some specimens of the pure gold exactly as found in the earth. As I believe you take pleasure in such enquiries, I determined to send you one of the peices. It is exactly as it was found. In general however it is found in small grains, approaching to dust, & requires the use of mercury, to separate it from the gravelly earth, in which it is imbedded. Sometimes much larger lumps are found. It is discovered in several of our upper districts; usually about 2 feet 6 or 8 Inches under the surface. The earth which contains it, runs in veins,—discernible to the keen eyes of the disciplined Gold finders, but not to ordinary eyes. The earth is washed, till they get the mere earth separated from the matrix. There then remains a species of gravel, in which the golden grains or dust are deposited. And then the mercury is used, & which they have the skill to recover without loss. The profit has been usually from 75 cents to one dollar per day, clear of expences, for each labourer. Sometimes a great deal more. New discoveries are continually making, & some of the veins much richer. In Darlington District, very rich veins have been discovered, & they are beginning to work them. As there are no mines to consume the lives of the miners; and as there is no compulsory labor; and as only a small portion of the productive labor of the Country can be applied to this purpose; and that is drawn from the Idle & the adventurous, I do not think we need fear the ill consequences which usually flow from working rich mines. England derives wealth and strength from her mines.

On my long circuit I conversed with a great number of our Citizens on the all engrossing subject of the Tariff. There is a very general, I may almost say, universal opinion unfavorable to that measure. Its operation will be most injurious to the South.—It is considered oppressive, & unjust—for the power to impose duties was given to raise revenue & not to encourage the manufactures of one section of the Union, at the expence of another section. The tariff is held to be against the spirit, if not against the letter of the Constitution.—With these Impressions, our people of the Southern States are in decided hostility to the tariff; & it will be opposed by a severe domestic economy; by household manufactures; & by every other means in the power of the Citizens, which may be legal or Constitutional—Some are prepared to go much further. But I am satisfied a great majority of the Citizens are opposed to violent measures, which may put the Union in jeopardy. That precious union is appreciated as it ought to be by the body of our Citizens, & will not be abandoned, until the oppression shall be actually experienced to be most grinding, & the remedy hopeless. Then and not before, I believe men's minds will be reluctantly driven to consider of ulterior measures. What is the real feeling, & force of public mind with you on this question? Let me add that the excitement about the tariff, has no connection here with the Presidential Election. That point is settled, & is not swayed one way or the other by the Tariff.

I have not been able to make the search you desire for the Autographs which you want.—It can & shall be done. But you must be patient—for I am not more than 4 m^o in the year at home, & much of that deeply employed—I am now setting off speedily on an excursion to our mountains for relaxation, after seven months incessant labor. I am very glad to learn that M^{rs} G enjoys good health. It is a great blessing, which I hope she may long enjoy. And I trust that the good care you take of yourself, and the kind care of your good wife, will long preserve you.—The loss of a venerable mother is always a heavy loss in the Domestic Circle; and I doubt not was felt in your worthy family. My own losses in a few years have been very great & very afflicting—It is my desire & my Effort to bow down to the will of God; & to say, Thy will be done: But it is a hard struggle with the feelings. I have lately lost a most amiable, honorable virtuous friend, Judge Watier. He was wise & good & kind. It is a severe privation to me.

I have written you a long & garulous letter: But that you know is the privilege of old men. I have made you pay more postage than usual, to make a good envelope for your Gold & Gold dust. Remember me kindly to V. Wife, & be assured of the truest regard and esteem of your friend.

HENRY W DE SAUSSURE.

Finally, the subjoined letter from Director Boudinot to his nephew, is a characteristic

avowal of that strong religious faith, which he professed for more than sixty years, and continued to express until his death, less than two years after its date, the letter having been written when he was in his eightieth year.

BURLINGTON Dec^r. 6th, 1819.

MY DEAR NEPHEW—

Both your last Letters are now before me, which ought to have been answered long ago; but I have been so overdone by three pieces of Business that came on me all at once, and which have been long objects of great attention & desire to have accomplished previous to my death, that I have applied to them day and Night for 3 or 4 weeks past, so as scarcely to read my Letters as they have come in.—I have accomplished some & hope to finish in a couple of days more, if God should spare my life.

I am not surprised, that you feel your delicate situation after the Loss you have met with—Very few of your Contemporaries could have met with such a one—He has left the savour of his Memory behind which I trust will not be unimproved—His example, is a loud call upon others, to go & do likewise, and even if it should be neglected by some, I do most earnestly pray to a gracious God, with whom is the residue of the Spirit, that his Children & connections may make it an invariable principle, to follow his bright Example as he followed his glorified Redeemer—Oh my dear Sir, forget not, that this Life and all its Enjoyments, is not worth living for, but as we improve it, as probationers for the world to come, that we may be prepared to meet our God. The losses of this world and all the sufferings we undergo, will be first rate blessings, if they lead us to a life of holiness & devotion to the Service of our God & fellow men, especially to shew forth his glory to a guilty world—Be assured that the time is fast hastening on, which will forcibly convince us, that to have fought the good fight & kept the faith, is the only thing that will carry us thro with joy & comfort to the end of our race. May God almighty grant you his Grace to lay a solid foundation in the days of your Youth, that will bear you above the world here; and hereafter land you safe in the Haven of eternal Rest, so that when absent from the Body, you will secure a blessed inheritance near and like your God, where you may enjoy the presence of Jesus the mediator of the new Covenant, and the Society the Spirits of just men made perfect in glory.

I am satisfied that your being one of the Executors of your Father, and at all events if you have the assent of two more, you are entitled to a Seat at the Board to represent the Estate.—For this purpose I give a short power for this purpose to Mr. Colt to get Mr. Stockton to sign & deliver to you—and I think I left you a power to represent me—but to prevent all difficulties I shall send you a Share to be conveyed to you, so that you may use that if necessary, but you had best to get admitted to represent the Estate, as you will have so many more Votes, than if you had but a single Share.

The Boat is going & Mr. Colt is called away. When shall we see you here.—

I am my D Sir

Yours very Affly

CHAS E BOUDINOT Esq

CHAS. BOUDINOT.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

June 4th.—The Society met this day at the usual hour. But little business was transacted. Mr. Pratt exhibited a silver coin of Groningen of 1562. The Secretary, Mr. Wm. S. Appleton, announced his early departure for Europe, and received a leave of absence for a year. Mr. John H. Ellis was chosen to act as Secretary until Mr. Appleton's return.

July 2^d.—The usual monthly meeting of the Society was held this day. The following interesting letter was read to the Society by the President, from the Hon. Chas. H. Bell:

EXETER, N. H., 30th June, 1868.

I have pleasure in communicating to the Society a copy of the proceedings of the Council and General Assembly of the Colony of New Hampshire, in regard to the emission of a copper currency. The copy is taken from the original paper, upon the margin of which is the design of the proposed coin, which is faithfully copied.

The tree is evidently intended to represent a pine, though bearing little resemblance to it.

It seems extremely probable that the piece in the possession of Mr. Stickney of Salem, described and represented in Dickeson, is the pattern designed and executed for this proposed New Hampshire coin. The pine upon that piece, if correctly delineated in Dickeson, is not a *much* more successful attempt than that done by the N. H. committee.

It is understood that none of these coins were ever issued for circulation. Having only recently obtained the facts I now communicate, I have not yet made inquiries in regard to William Moulton, who was authorized to "make" the coin; but I shall do so as soon as practicable, and may be so fortunate as to obtain more light upon this interesting subject.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES H. BELL.

"In the House of Representatives, Mar 13, 1776.

Voted. That a committee be chose to joyn a committee from the Hon^{ble} Board, to confer upon the expediency of making Copper Coin, & make a Report to this House.

Voted. That Capt. Pierse Long, Jonathan Lovell, Esq. and Deacon Nahum Balden be the Committee for the above mentioned purpose—

Sent up for concurrence,

P. WHITE, *Speaker.*

{ A Representation of one side of the proposed coin, bearing a diverging shrub, or tree, with the legend AMERICAN LIBERTY. }

In Council *eodem die*, Read and Mr. Clagett & Giles added on the part of the Board.

E. THOMPSON, *Secy.*

The Committee humbly report, that they find it expedient to make Copper Coin for the Benefit of small Change, and as the Continental and other Bills are so large, that William Moulton be empowered to make so much as may amount to 100^{lbs} w^t., subject when made to the Inspection and Direction of the General Assembly before Circulation. Also we recommend that 108 of said Coppers be Equal to one Spanish Dollar, that the said Coin be of pure Copper and Equal in w^t. to English half pence, and bear such Device thereon as the Gen^l. Assembly may approve.

WYSEMAN CLAGETT, *Chairman*".

In June, 1776, the Assembly voted that the coin should bear the following inscription and devices: Ob. A Pine Tree, "American Liberty". Rev. A Harp.*

The President called attention to a communication in the *Historical Magazine* for March, 1868, by the Hon. Wm. Willis, of Portland, Me., concerning a silver medal struck in honor of Cecilius, the second Lord Baltimore and his wife Anne Arundell, in the following terms:

"The Hon. William Willis, of Portland, Maine, has lately communicated to the *Historical Magazine*, an account of a Silver Medal struck in honor of Cecilius, the second Lord Baltimore and his wife Anne Arundell. Believing it to be of some rarity I have transcribed the description of it.

The Medal bears the following Portraits and Inscription:

Obverse—Bust of Lord Baltimore, with flowing hair falling upon his shoulders and head uncovered. 'DMS. CÆCILIVS. BARO. DE. BALTIMORE. ABSOLV. DMS. TERRÆ MariÆ. ET AVALONIÆ. &c'.

Reverse—Bust of his wife, with flowing hair falling in clusters on her shoulders, with a band at the back of the head. 'DNA. ANNA. ARVNDELIA. PVLCHERRIMA. ET. OPTIMA. CONIVX. CÆCILLII. PREDECTI.†' Size 28, and about the thickness of a half dollar.

Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, was educated at Trinity College, Oxford, where he was graduated in 1597. He was one of the members of the Virginia Company, under its second charter, in 1609. In 1624, he was created Lord Baltimore, by King James the First, and was granted a province in Newfoundland under the name of Avalon. After a residence there of two years, finding the climate and soil unsuited for the establishment of a flourishing Colony, he determined to proceed further South. Accordingly, in 1628, he sailed for Virginia, whence he returned to England, and succeeded in obtaining a grant of the territory of Maryland, from Charles the First.

The patent was prepared by Lord Baltimore, but before it was finally executed he died, and it was delivered to his son Cecil, who succeeded to his titles and estates. The Charter was issued on the 20th of June, 1632, and the new province, in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, was named *Terra Maria*—MARYLAND".

The Society adjourned until the first Thursday in October.

SELECTED POETRY.—THE OLD COIN.

A massy lump of brass or bronze,
Moulded by ponderous blow on blow,
For Nero or Vespasian's son
In ages dim and long ago.

A cruel mouth, a swinish chin,
A wolfish eye, almost erased:
But half the date—a victory—
Two words, and those almost defaced.

Where is the golden palace now
That on the Palatine arose?
Where are the statue-guarded doors?
Where are the temple porticoes?

For discs of metal shaped like this,
Swords have been drawn and Lethe crossed:
For this, in greedy hope, men's souls
Have been by passion's tempest tossed.

This is Ambition's frail reward,
This is a buried Cæsar's fame:
Upon a lump of rusty bronze
The two-thirds of a doubtful name!

* See Force's *American Archives*, 5th Series, Vol. I

THE LINCOLN MEDAL.

The friends of our Society will observe with pleasure, in the last Report of its Proceedings, that very great progress has been made, through the energy of Mr. Parish, in the delivery of impressions of the Lincoln Medal to subscribers. Nearly all those who paid in advance have received their Medals. They are from the *old Dies*, which were found to be perfectly able, with judicious handling, to bear the requisite pressure. This fine work of art, therefore, which does so much credit to Mr. Sigel, who designed and executed it, may now at length be regarded as published; and amateurs, both those who subscribed without payment, and others who have not recorded their names, may be supplied with it through Daniel Parish, Jr., Esq., No. 25 Nassau St., Room 14.

We presume that most collectors will desire impressions from the *new Dies* also. These may be obtained, either in copper or tin, through the same channel. The design differs materially from that of the old ones. In the bust on the obverse there are those appreciable differences of detail which present themselves even where a fac-simile is attempted. But this was not the case here, for it was Mr. Sigel's ambition to improve upon his former work. The new reverse varies still more widely from the original one, the word ACTS being suppressed, so that the Inscription reads: IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, &c.

We would here observe that our experience with this Medal ought to be a warning to all our sister Societies not to attempt anything of the kind themselves. It has annoyed and embarrassed us beyond measure and for a long time. Undertaken in a moment of patriotic enthusiasm and wild excitement, it has proved too much for our resources; and while its chief advocates have now disappeared from view, taking little interest at present in the affairs of the Society, the burden which they created has fallen on the necks of others who are just beginning to throw off its weight. Let our readers, if they be members of Numismatic associations, avoid the shoal where we have been beating, and keep to their proper course, by confining themselves to the legitimate objects of their organization.

THE CURRENCY OF ABYSSINIA.

On page 5, Volume II., of our Periodical, will be found a brief notice of the "Levant" or "Maria Theresa" Dollar, a piece which, always interesting, has of late attracted increased attention from its copious use in the Abyssinian war. In the *London Illustrated News* of July 18, 1868, appeared the following paragraph, illustrated by a correct wood-cut of the coin which, as we are there told, inspires so much confidence among the Ethiopians:—

"While the Snider rifle has been loudly praised for its influence in the Abyssinian war, a far more important piece of ammunition has been too much forgotten—the Maria Theresa dollar. It was more actively used in the expedition than the Snider, and did far more execution. It smoothed the way, and helped the march from Zulla to Magdala. The Snider bullet is a wonderful invention, and not to be depreciated; but it may miss its mark at times, while the dollar is a shot that never fails; everywhere it goes direct to the heart. It is to the very judicious use of this ammunition that a great deal of our success is due in the late campaign. The fire was directed by able hands, and every shot told; so that an ample expenditure of this ammunition has turned out to be the most economical plan in the end. The Maria Theresa dollar seems to have a reputation in many parts of the world, and this it owes to its freedom from alloy. In the reign of that Austrian Empress a number of Spanish galleons had been taken laden with silver from America, and the dollars made from that silver seem to have had a purity that has made them celebrated. Their reputation is so high in Abyssinia that no other coin is current. This was very awkward for Englishmen who wanted to purchase small articles of less value than the dollar, for there was no larger coin and no smaller change. The only small change are the pieces of salt which are carried inland and are used as money. If you wanted to buy a fowl, the only plan was to buy as many as you could get for your dollar. If one wanted eggs, there was no coin but the dollar; so one had to get as many eggs or anything else to make up its value. Its real value is equal to about 4s. 3d. The Abyssinians know it under the name of *real*, but its usual name was *coursie*. They also used the word, *bir*, or silver, which is with them the equivalent word for money, like the French "argent", the Hindostanee "rupee", and the Scotch "sillar". The Government had learned that this was the only coin that would pass in the country, and they sent large quantities of silver to Vienna to be struck off at the Austrian mint. In monetary transactions with the Abyssinians they were very careful about the inspection of these dollars before accepting them. They had particular marks which they looked out for, and if any of them were wanting, the coin was instantly rejected".

From a recent number of the *New York Herald* we have obtained the subjoined additional extract, which throws light on all that the first one leaves obscure:—

"The only European coin that is current in Abyssinia is the Maria Theresa dollar of A. D.

1780, and it is necessary that it should have certain distinctive marks, viz., a diadem of pearls, a pearl brooch on the shoulder, and the mint mark S. F. Dr. Beke says that, even if the dollar is of the correct kind, should these marks not be perfectly distinct, he has known the natives to refuse it. Its value is about 4s. 3d. This dollar is no longer in circulation in Austria, but is still coined at the government mint for exportation to the Levant, &c.

"For smaller monetary transactions the circulating medium consists of blocks of salt, eight inches long by one and a half inches in breadth. These are called in Shoa, according to Dr. Beke, *ámolés*, and in Schelga, to the west of Condar, according to Mr. Dufton, *tsho*. Their value is given by the former as two and a half pence, and by the latter as from two pence to three pence; it varies probably according to the distance from the source of supply. These blocks of salt are obtained from a great salt plain situated between Aruphilla Bay and Atebidera, which is thus quaintly described by Don Alonzo Mendez, Patriarch of Abyssinia, who traversed it in 1625:—'The boundary between the kingdoms of Daucali and Tygre is a plain, four days' journey in length and one in breadth, which they call the country of salt, for there is found all that they use in Ethiopia, instead of money; being bricks almost a span long and four fingers thick and broad, and wonderfully white, fine and hard, and there is never any miss of it, though they carry away never so much; and this quantity is so great that we met a caravan of it, wherein we believed there could be no less than 600 beasts of burden, camels, mules, and asses, of which the camels carry 600 of those bricks, and the asses 140 or 150, and these continually going and coming. They tell many stories concerning this salt-field, and amongst the rest that in some parts of it there are houses that look like stone, in which they hear human voices and of several other creatures, and that they call such as pass that way by their names, and yet nothing can be seen. The Moorish commander told me that, as he went by there with a lion Ras Cella Chistos sent to Moca, three or four of his servants vanished on a sudden, and he could never hear of them afterwards. In one place there is a mount of red salt, which is much used in physic. This is to be passed over by night, because the heat is so violent in the day that travellers and beasts are stifled, and the very shoes parch up as if they were laid on burning coals. We entered upon it at three in the afternoon, and it pleased God that the sun clouded, which the renegade Moor attributed to his prayers'.

"Mr. Dufton says that Abbi Addy, in Temblen, is the last place where the salt of Amhara is taken as money. The nearer one gets to the coast, where are the salt mines, of course the less is the value of the mineral; and Tygre cotton cloth takes its place as a medium of exchange".

FOREIGN PERIODICALS.

"Trübner's American and Oriental Literary Record", No. 34, issued April 30, does our JOURNAL the honor, as a kind welcome to a new comer, to place its title foremost in the catalogue of American publications together with the table of contents of the January number. This is but another indication that, through the present enterprise of our Society, the initiative has been taken, both for placing the pursuit of Numismatics on a satisfactory basis in our own country, and for establishing creditable relations with its distinguished votaries abroad. By lending us aid, therefore, *now*, much may be accomplished in furtherance of this end; while, from withholding assistance, discouragement and failure will probably ensue, and that work, if ever done, will have to be begun from the beginning at some far off day.

The "*Blätter für Münzfreunde*" for July, published quarterly at Leipsic, Saxony, also contains a notice of our JOURNAL, and the Editor testifies some surprise at the number of Numismatic Societies (5) which, as he learns from our report of their Proceedings, exists on this continent. The same valuable periodical furnishes us, by a circuitous channel certainly, with this item in regard to a recent germination of our science, in one of the most progressive countries of our hemisphere:— "From South America a production lately reached us entitled: '*Discurso numismatico, presentado a la Facultad de humanidades de la Universidad de Chile, por el miembro de ella D. Justo Flor. Lobeck. Santiago de Chile, 1859*', pp. 23. Its author gives a survey of the coinage of the Greeks and Romans, with references to numerous passages in the writers of classical antiquity. The work presents nothing essentially new, but deserves consideration as a literary offspring of South America".— We read here, likewise, additional information on the great gold Eucratides mentioned in our last number as having been bought by the Emperor of the French for 30,000 francs. This "*monstre de la numismatique*" is called by the Editor a *twenty*, not *ten*, stater piece, and is finely represented in the plate accompanying the "*Blätter*". It is either a "*unicum*", or has been struck a very few times only, since the die is slightly cracked in the king's hair, and very powerful blows of the hammer must have been necessary to bring up its bold relief. The price paid is considered to be the highest ever given for a single coin.

BOLEN MEDALET, NUMBER THIRTY-THREE.

REV. Same as No. 30. REV. "A Piece of Copper taken from the Wreck of the Rebel Ram Merrimac, in 1862 by J. F. Pratt A. A. Surg. U. S. A. Only Ten Struck." Size 16. Reverse die destroyed.

Through our friend Mr. J. A. Bolen, of Springfield, Mass., we have received an impression of the above medalet as a donation to the Society from Dr. J. F. Pratt, whom, as the Society is now adjourned, we heartily thank in its behalf. The Doctor has four for sale at Two Dollars each. This memorial originated in the following way. Dr. Pratt having written to Mr. Bolen that he had such a piece of copper, the latter suggested that this use should be made of it. Being authorized to do so, he struck ten impressions only, and then defaced the reverse die, sending the Doctor the die and all the impressions except one. It is an interesting example of "Historic Material".

QUERY AND REPLY.

PROF. C. E. ANTHON:

GLEN COVE, LONG ISLAND, Aug. 6, 1868.

DEAR SIR:—You have several times given me information in regard to coins sent to you; and, if not asking too much, I would like to have something of the history of this piece. It was found in a part of the Island that is not very thickly settled, and where it had probably lain for a number of years. The parties from whom I obtained it tell me that it was nearly as bright when found, as now. I think the scratches on the one side are from a pin used by them to clean out the cavities. Any information given will be thankfully received by

Yours respectfully,

J. F. BOWNE.

The piece enclosed by our respected correspondent is a fraction, apparently one-eighth, of a Spanish-American dollar, and of the kind of currency called "Cob-Money". The legends are quite illegible, but the devices are manifestly those of one type of the Cob-Dollar on a reduced scale. All this species of coin, which from its rudeness is to be ascribed to the immediate neighborhood of the mines as its place of origin, is highly interesting, as exemplifying, in its earlier specimens, the first coinage of America, while the more recent ones may have formed the chief element in the circulating medium of the Buccaneers. One of these, or their successor, Captain Kidd, may have left Mr. Bowne's Cob-Real in the spot where it was found.

The Cob-Dollars are now becoming very scarce and sell very high. Two specimens in the late Mickley Sale brought respectively \$10, and \$20, absurd prices for which we are at a loss to account. We had the good fortune to purchase, from a broker's window, not long ago, for its metallic worth, a fine one of the time of Philip III., 1598–1621; and we have another of the last year of Philip IV., 1621–1665, obtained from Germany this summer at a moderate cost, which surpasses all that we have ever seen, in execution and preservation.

Though struck in America, these rude pieces are abundant in Spain. So we are informed by a friend, of that country, who adds that they are known there under the name of "Plata Macuquina." The best brief account of the Cob-Dollar with which we are acquainted is to be found in the "Manual" of Eckfeldt and Dubois, p. 119. We there read of "the clumsy, shapeless coinage, both of gold and silver, called in Mexico *máquina de papalote y cruz**; and in this country by the briefer appellation of 'cobs'. These were of the lawful standards, or nearly so, but scarcely deserved the name of coin, being rather lumps of bullion flattened and impressed by a hammer; the edge presenting every variety of form except that of a circle, and affording ample scope for the practice of clipping. Notwithstanding, they are generally found, even to this day, within a few grains of lawful weight. They are generally about a century old, but some are dated as late as 1770. They are distinguished by a large cross, of which the four arms are equal in length, and loaded at the ends; the date generally omits the *thousandth* place, so that 736 (for example) is to be read 1736. The letters PLVSVLTRA (*plus ultra*) are crowded in, without attention to order. These coins were formerly brought here in large quantities for re-coining, but have now become scarce".

Mr. Bowne will find in Prime's "Coins, Medals, and Seals", Plate CV., No. 3, a representation of a Quarter, or Two Real Piece, of Cob-Money. It is however, of a different type from his Real, which, as it is identical in devices with our Dollar of Philip III., is probably very much the older of the two.

For the opposite inset, with its curious illustration, we return hearty thanks to our friend Alfred Sandham, Esq., of Montreal, a gentleman whose frequent and valuable aid has time and again lightened our editorial labors. As in November last the Plan of Montreal in the Olden Time, drawn by himself, was freely given to our readers, so now he has sent us, for their benefit, five hundred similar sheets of the "Card Money" to be inserted in our issue for this month. We should like to see his liberality and kindly spirit imitated nearer home.

* "That is 'windmill and cross money'; the cross being of an unusual form, and not unlike the fan of a windmill."

CARD MONEY USED IN CANADA

Prior to the Conquest in 1760.

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ABOUT the year 1700, the Trade of Canada was in a very languishing condition, which was to a great extent caused by the frequent alterations which took place in the medium of Exchange. The "Company of the West Indies" (to whom the French Islands had been conceded) was permitted to circulate there, small coin to the amount of 100,000 *francs*, but the use of this coin was prohibited in any other country. Owing to the want of specie in Canada, a decree was published, allowing this, and all other French coins to be used, on augmentation of the value, one-fourth. At this period the *Intendant* of Canada experienced great trouble, not only in the payment of troops, but other expenses. On the 1st January, it was necessary to pay the officers and soldiers, and the funds remitted for that purpose, from France, generally arrived too late. To obviate this most urgent difficulty, the *Intendant*, with the sanction of the Council, issued notes, instead of money, always observing the increase in value of the coin. A *protes-verbé* was passed, and by virtue of an *ordnance* of the Governor General, and *Intendant*, there was stamped on each piece of this paper money (which was a card), its value, the signature of the Treasurer, and impression of the Arms of France, and (on sealing-wax) those of the Governor and *Intendant*. These were afterwards imprinted in France, with the same impressions as the current money of the Kingdom, and it was decreed that be-



fore the arrival in Canada, of the vessels from France, a particular mark should be added, to prevent the introduction of counterfeit.

This species of money did not long remain in circulation, and new cards were issued, on which new impressions were engraved, those under the value of four *liures* were distinguished by a particular mark made by the *Intendant*, while he signed those of four *liures* upward to six *liures*, and all above that amount, had, in addition, the signature of the Governor General. In the beginning of Autumn all these cards were brought to the Treasurer, who gave their value in Bills of Exchange on the Treasurer General of the Marine, or his deputy at Rochefort. Such cards as were worn, or spoiled, were not used again, but were burnt agreeably to an Act for that purpose.

While these Bills of Exchange, were faithfully paid, the cards were preferred to specie, but when that punctuality was discontinued,

they were no longer presented to the Treasurer, and the *Intendant*, (M. de Champigny) had much fruitless labor in trying to recall those which he had issued, and, his successors were obliged to issue new cards every year, until they became so multiplied that their value was annihilated, and nobody would receive them.

In 1713, the inhabitants offered to lose one-half, if the government would pay the other in specie. This offer was accepted, but was not carried into effect until 1717. But undeterred, by past experience, the Colony again commenced the issue of paper, (or card) money, and, in 1734 the amount was so large, that the Government was "compelled to remit to some future time the payment of it," and in 1759, payment of Bills of Exchange given for this money was wholly suspended. When the Colony passed into the hands of Britain, that Government paid to the Canadians an indemnity of £112,000 in bonds, and £24,000 sterling in specie, which was at the rate of 65 per cent. upon Bills of Exchange, and 34 per cent. on account of their paper money.

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THE accompanying Cut is a fac-simile of the CARD-MONEY—"GOOD FOR THE SUM OF TWELVE LIVRES," and is signed by Governor *Beauchemin*, *Intendant Hocquart*, and Comptroller, or Treasurer *Vernin*. The original formed part of the Collection belonging to A. J. Boucher, Esq., first President of the Montreal Numismatic Society, and was sold in the year 1865.